

Gain Experience Now for Future Success

What is the answer to the age-old question, “How can I get a job without experience, and how can I get experience without a job?” The answer may surprise you: a regular job is only one of many methods to get experience! With the wide variety of WCSU academic classes, access to innovative programs and techniques, and many curated sites on the Career Success Center web pages, students can discover many ways to **prototype their lives!** Below, are some examples that may help you.

- ✓ Develop key skills and many career competencies
- ✓ Gain academic and career-related experience
- ✓ Apply classroom learning in real-world situations
- ✓ Be more competitive in the job market
- ✓ Develop work ethic/personal management skills
- ✓ Earn a paycheck and/or get academic credit
- ✓ Build professional relationships and network
- ✓ Find mentors and advisors for career development

START HERE

INTERNSHIP

A professional learning experience that offers meaningful, practical work for which you may earn academic credit. They are usually paid and can take place at any time during the year or in any approved location (even on campus.) As an intern, you can gain much more than just academic credit and/or a paycheck.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteer experiences not only give you a unique perspective on your community, but the experience and skills gained while cultivating a lifelong service-ethic will stimulate and enhance the education experience at all levels. These can be one or multiple events, or dedicated longer-term service support.

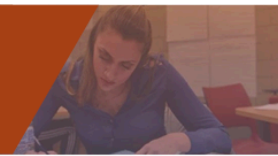
ON-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT

Convenient on-campus employment positions can be structured to be a purposeful, skill-building experience while also supporting the University mission. Positions can be work study or non-work study. These jobs are more flexible than on-campus jobs because they are designed for students.

Strategies for finding these important opportunities:

- Visit the Career Success Center early, and often, and get help with research, résumés and interviewing.
- Take a look at Handshake, research organizations of interest, check out “BuzzFile,” a nationwide company listings page to find regional organizations of interest.
- Attend career fairs, and live and virtual events that are available throughout each semester.
- Network by speaking to every resource available including family, friends, alumni, professionals, members of professional organizations and attend as many networking events as you can.
- Connect with employers and alumni on social media such as LinkedIn, Meet Up, and others.
- Join a student club or professional organization to develop leadership skills, network with guest speakers and provide community service. For example, consider joining the Danbury Young Professionals Organization!
- Use Big Interview to learn and practice interview skills.





WCSU is FULL of opportunities and ideas to gain experience through applied learning methods

EMBRACE MORE GREAT WAYS TO LEARN PROFESSIONAL SKILLS VIA EXPERIENCE, ACADEMIC CLASSES AND LOCAL/NATIONAL OUTREACH

MICRO INTERNSHIPS

Short-term, usually paid, professional one-time assignments that are similar to those given to new hires or interns. They usually consist of 5 to 40 hours of work, can occur any time of year and are easier to fit into a busy schedule. Many of these are done remotely.

CLINICAL PLACEMENT

Rotations through a variety of health care agencies with faculty supervision focusing on the health care field process. Emphasis is on mastering theoretical concepts, improving skill proficiency, and developing clinical reasoning abilities with a focus on evidence-based practice.

FIELD STUDY

Collection of information outside of an experimental or lab setting. This type of data collection is most often conducted in natural settings or environments and can be designed in a variety of ways for various disciplines. Field study may be mentored, self-directed, or comprise a full course. The projects include inquiry, design, investigation, discovery and application.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Student entrepreneurs who design, launch, and run their own business can use the Western Entrepreneurship Society (WES) or be inspired through academic entrepreneurship classes. Student entrepreneurs can develop broad-based professional skills relevant to any organization, industry, or community; their start-ups can be for-profit or not-for-profit. Entrepreneurship involves consistently thinking and acting in ways designed to uncover new opportunities that are then explored to provide value.

RESEARCH

Mentored, self-directed work that enables students to make an original, intellectual or creative contribution to the discipline by exploring an issue of interest and communicating the results to others.

CREATIVE WORKS

A capstone, senior project, performance, or other creative work that occurs as a culminating experience for a student in an accredited class or program.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Short-term assignments with a focus on educating students as global citizens. Classes or programs include meaningful civic education and activities for social good. Classes and projects have components of reflection and engagement.

GIGS

Like a micro internship, gigs are short-term, usually paid, one-time, professional assignments. Many industries and roles may participate in a "gig," especially the music, entertainment, creative, and tech fields. Today, most fields integrate components of "gigs" because of the flexible employment model that the emerging "gig economy" demands.

TRAVEL/EXCHANGE

International or Domestic. An instructional program delivered in an off-campus location, the content of which is enhanced by the location, by distinctive historic or cultural features available in the location-or by a unique approach to the subject matter that is specific to the location. The WCSU ISEP program students travel to a location that has been pre-approved and where they determine their specific course of study in collaboration with adviser and the host institution faculty.

STUDENT TEACHING

Semester-long, professional assignments to a particular elementary or secondary school under the supervision of a classroom teacher and/or faculty mentor. Typically, a specified number of hours of student teaching are required for teacher certification.

PRACTICUM

A period of practical experience in academic, professional or community settings (agencies/ organizations) as part of an academic program or course. This approach is grounded in application and practice of theoretical/ technical concepts/skills and cultural competency relevant to a course or profession.